

## This Week In Agriculture

### September 23, 2005

# Governor presides over signing of \$372 million Taiwan wheat deal

**G**overnor Dirk Kempthorne on Thursday, September 22 presided as Taiwan and Idaho wheat industry officials signed an agreement that could boost wheat exports from the United States by more than 62 million bushels over the next two years – a deal worth \$372 million.

Taiwan Flour Mills Association Director Hsin-Hong Kuo and Idaho Wheat Commission Executive Director Blaine Jacobson joined Governor Kempthorne in his office for the ceremony.

The agreement, between the Taiwan Flour Mills Association and the Idaho Wheat Commission, comes directly as a result of Governor Kempthorne's trade mission to Asia in May. During that trade mission, the Taiwan Flour Mills Association accepted Governor Kempthorne's invitation to come to Idaho and sign a letter of intent to purchase Idaho wheat.

"This agreement is yet another example of the value trade missions have in developing ties between Idaho, its businesses, and other nations," Kempthorne said. "The friendships we've developed through these trips over the years are key to creating op-



**With reporters watching, Governor Kempthorne shakes hands with Taiwanese officials in his office Thursday.**

portunities for Idaho businesses abroad. In this competitive world, it's imperative that we keep Idaho's name out front in international circles by further developing our existing relationships and building new ones."

Mr. Hsin-Hong Kuo said: "Taiwan and the U.S. enjoy a longstanding partnership built upon a shared commitment to freedom, democracy, and the

market economy. Signing this Letter of Intent will further solidify our friendship and trade relationship."

The agreement is particularly important to Idaho, which exports about 60 percent of its wheat. Wheat is one of Idaho's top commodities.

**Please see TRADE  
Page 2**

Grown on more than 1.6 million acres, in 2004 Idaho's wheat crop was worth \$332 million, second only to potatoes.

"The world market demands only the best agriculture commodities," Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi said. "We're proud to have not only the commodities, but also the strong relationships forged during the Governor's trade missions, that allow us to provide Idaho's wheat to our friends in Taiwan."

"The Taiwan Flour Millers Association is a very faithful, high-end cash customer for Idaho wheat. We are grateful for their friendship and for their business," said Jacobson.

"Idaho wheat growers have enjoyed a relationship with flour millers in Taiwan since the 1950s, and today Taiwan buys more than 90 percent of its wheat imports from the United States.

Taiwan has conducted 18 buying missions to the United States between 1978 and 1993.

Those missions resulted in exports worth more than

\$11.6 billion. Today, the U.S. is one of Taiwan's largest suppliers

of agricultural products, providing the island nation with one-

third of its food import needs.



**Top: Governor Kempthorne adds his name to the agreement. Bottom: Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi explains to reporters the agreement's significance.**



Anyone who plans to apply fertilizers or pesticides through irrigation systems must follow licensing and equipment requirements before chemigating. "Pesticides" is a broad category that includes insecticides, herbicides, nematicides, fungicides, etc.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) issued the reminder in conjunction with fall chemigation activities. These requirements assure that the chemigator is competent in the calibration and management of chemigation sites, and provide protection of Idaho's ground and surface water from accidental backflow of chemicals.

Chemigation licensing and equipment requirements apply to both private and professional applicators, although there are some differences in these requirements:

- The **private applicator** (a grower or his employee) must

have a Chemigation (CH) category on his license and must register each chemigation site/system on his license application form. The private applicator/chemigator must also have the Restricted Use (RU) category and maintain a record of the application if applying a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP).

- The **professional applicator** includes anyone who applies chemicals through an irrigation system upon the land or property of another for compensation. That applicator must have a professional applicator license with a CH category **plus** the Soil Fumigant (SF) category if applying soil fumigants such as metam sodium. The applicator must register each chemigation site/system on his license application form, provide proof of liability insurance, and, if applying a pesticide, maintain records of these chemigation applications.

Only state-approved

chemigation devices may be used during chemigation activities. In addition, the product label will include specific chemigation instructions.

If you are not sure whether your chemical injection site is in compliance with ISDA and pesticide label requirements, or, if you need additional information, please contact your local ISDA office located in Twin Falls, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Nampa and Coeur d'Alene. Chemigation site inspections can be arranged prior to chemigation activities to ensure safe chemical applications and chemigation law compliance.

Assistance and other information about chemigation including a listing of Approved Chemigation Equipment can be obtained at the ISDA website at: <http://www.idahoag.us/Categories/Pesticides/Documents/Chemigation/Approved%20Chemigation%20Equip.pdf>.

## IDAHO magazine announces first annual recipe contest

IDAHO magazine is announcing its first annual recipe contest. "We're looking for good, original recipes that highlight Idaho's rich agricultural bounty," said Kitty Fleischman, publisher of the monthly. "There are 144 agricultural commodities grown, raised or produced in our state, so there is a wealth of exciting options for our creative cooks."

Rod Jessick, executive chef at the world-class Coeur d'Alene Resort, will serve as the judge for the event. In addition to cash prizes and plaques being awarded to category winners by the magazine, Jessick will consider featuring the winning en-

tries on the menu at the resort.

There are three categories for recipes: main dishes, desserts and a general category for all other recipes. Each category will have a \$100 cash prize for first place. Plaques will be presented for first, second and third places in each category, with certificates for honorable mentions. Recipes should prominently feature Idaho products. For a list of Idaho products available from Idaho Preferred™ members, log on to [www.idahopreferred.com](http://www.idahopreferred.com).

For contest details, go to the magazine's website, [www.idahomagazine.com](http://www.idahomagazine.com).

**Deadline for entries is Oct.**

**15, 2005**, and there is an entry fee of \$10 per recipe. Entries and entry fees should be sent to: IDAHO Magazine Recipe Contest, 1412 W. Idaho, Suite 240, Boise, ID 83702.

Founded in 2001, IDAHO magazine was the 2003 recipient of the Governor's Award for Media. In 2004 it was named "Best 4-Color Magazine" by both the Idaho Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women. IDAHO magazine also has annual cover photo and fiction-writing contests. Virtually all of the magazine's content is selected from submissions by freelance writers and photographers from across the state.

The Agricultural Marketing News Service (AMS) is marking its 90<sup>th</sup> year of providing current, unbiased price and sales information to the public.

AMS operates under a cooperative agreement signed more than half a century ago between the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"This partnership provides an invaluable tool for large and small businesses, promoting fair competition by making the latest data available to everyone," said ISDA Director Pat Takasugi.

"This is a partnership that has withstood the test of time, and I expect it will continue for many years to come."

"It's hard to imagine the

agriculture industry in Idaho without this service," said ISDA Marketing Bureau Chief Laura Johnson. "The marketing decisions growers and shippers make are predicated on the good information they get from AMS on a daily basis."

AMS reports include information on prices, volume, quality, condition, and other market data on farm products in specific markets and marketing areas.

Reports cover both domestic and international markets. The data is disseminated within hours of collection via the Internet and made available through electronic means, in printed reports, by telephone recordings and through the news media.

The Agricultural Marketing

Service's first program was the Market News Service, established in 1915. The first USDA market news report was issued from Hammond, LA, and it reported the prices and movement of strawberries.

The first market report was issued from Idaho Falls on September 23, 1916 with prices and shipments of potatoes.

The Idaho Falls office that disseminates this information is a year-around operation designed to fulfill the industry's need for timely and accurate market information.

It is also a model for other commodity-specific offices in the Market News organization. The Idaho Falls office specializes in potato and onion price and shipment information.

## Johnson named one of 40 leaders under 40

Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Laura Johnson has been named one of 40 export leaders in the nation under the age of 40.



Laura Johnson

The editors of American Food and Ag Exporter magazine compiled the list of "40 under 40" for its Summer 2005 edition. All 40 had to be nominated for the honor.

Johnson is the bureau chief of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Division of International Trade and Domestic Market Development.

As Bureau Chief she oversees the divi-

## Ag Days celebration set for Oct. 21 and 22

The University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences will play host to the annual Ag Days celebration Oct. 21 and 22.

Events will begin Oct. 21 with North Idaho Chili Cook-off judging at 11 a.m. and the lunchtime Agriculture Student Affairs Council and Clubs Food and Activity Fair east of the UI Agricultural Science Building.

Further information about events is available online at [www.ag.uidaho.edu/agdays](http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/agdays).

Ag Days continues Saturday morning with FFA, 4-H dairy and livestock judging events and the Eighth annual Block and Bridle Club Alumni Livestock Judging Contest.

Tom Stroschein's traditional "sheep camp" will serve as a focal point for the Ag Days pre-game social on the Kibbie Dome lawn.